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# 3/a  
12-11-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

HEIKO MAAS ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW US PCT APPLN  
(Based on PCT/EP00/02416) :

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION:  
OF SURFACTANT ALCOHOL ETHERS,  
THE PREPARED PRODUCTS AND  
THEIR USE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 14-18.

Please amend the claims as shown on the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows:

3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein process step a), the dimerization, is carried out with heterogeneous catalysis.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dimerization catalyst is used which comprises at least one element of subgroup VIII of the Periodic Table and the

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